

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ANTIMONY IN THE FOURTH QUARTER 2001

The price for antimony metal remained steady during the fourth quarter of 2001. The New York dealer price range for antimony metal, published by Platts Metals Week, started and ended the quarter at \$0.62 to \$0.67 per pound.

American Metal Market and Metal Bulletin ceased publishing the price for other forms of antimony, such as high tint antimony trioxide, clean antimony sulfide concentrate, and lump antimony sulfide.

In China, two branches of Liuzhou-based China Tin Group Co. (Huaxi) in the Guangxi Autonomous Region increased their

production plans for antimony in 2002. The Hechi Smelter is expected to produce 16,000 metric tons (t) of lead and antimony combined in 2002, up from a combined 15,000 t in 2001. The Jinchengjiang Smelter is expected to produce a total of 15,000 t of lead and antimony in 2002, an 80% increase over 2001 (Antiake, 2002).

Reference Cited

Antaike, 2002, China Tin Group: Antaike, no. 64, January, p. 8.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ANTIMONY STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content, unless otherwise specified)

	2000	2001			
		First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter
Production:					
Primary smelter 2/	20,900	W	W	W	W
Secondary	7,920	1,630	1,680	1,510	1,440
Imports for consumption:	41,600	11,000	9,770	7,740	6,320 3/
Ore and concentrate	3,690	983	794	401	88 3/ 4/
Metal	14,200	2,420	2,930	3,410	2,160 3/ 4/
Oxide 5/	23,700	7,570	6,040	3,930	4,070 3/
Exports:	8,350	2,900	2,900	1,040	NA
Metal, alloys, and scrap (gross weight)	1,080	579	232	160	NA
Oxide 5/	6,040	2,330	1,030	593	NA
Consumption of primary antimony	16,700	2,670 r/	2,310 r/	2,360 r/	2,040
Price: Average cents per pound 6/	65.50	69.03	68.53	60.62	63.84
Stocks, end of period 7/	10,300	9,010 r/	9,290 r/	8,350 r/	8,100

r/ Revised. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices.

2/ Nearly all smelter output is trioxide.

3/ Data for October and November only.

4/ All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

5/ Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

6/ New York dealer price for 99.5% to 99.6% metal, c.i.f. U.S. ports.

7/ Producer and consumer stocks.

TABLE 2
INDUSTRY STOCKS OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY IN THE
UNITED STATES 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material	2001 2/			
	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter
Metal	1,340 r/	1,380 r/	714 r/	578
Oxide	5,050 r/	5,190 r/	5,010 r/	5,080
Other 3/	2,620	2,720	2,630	2,450
Total	9,010 r/	9,290 r/	8,350 r/	8,100

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who held 90% of the total stocks of antimony at the end of 2000.

3/ Includes ore and concentrate, sulfide, and residues.

TABLE 3
INDUSTRIAL CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material consumed	2000	2001 2/			
		F first quarter	Second quarter r/	Third quarter r/	Fourth quarter
Metal	1,800	W	304	325	W
Oxide	14,800	2,330 r/	2,000	2,040	1,710
Other 3/	100	345 r/	1	2	333
Total	16,700	2,670 r/	2,310	2,360	2,040

r/ Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other."

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who consumed 69% of the total antimony in 2000.

3/ Includes sulfide and residues.

TABLE 4
INDUSTRIAL CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY, BY CLASS OF MATERIAL PRODUCED 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Product	2000	2001 2/			
		First quarter r/	Second quarter r/	Third quarter r/	Fourth quarter
Metal:					
Bearing metals and bearings	42	W	W	W	W
Other 3/	2,660	549	478	513	515
Total	2,700	549	478	513	515
Nonmetal:					
Ceramics and glass	862	W	W	W	W
Plastics	1,960	W	W	W	W
Other 4/	1,290	1,010	678	733	602
Total	4,110	1,010	678	733	602
Flame-retardants:					
Plastics	8,920	368	377	419	466
Other 5/	1,010	746	776	696	460
Total	9,930	1,110	1,150	1,110	926
Total reported	16,700	2,670	2,310	2,360	2,040

r/ Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other."

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who consumed 69% of the total antimony in 2000.

3/ Includes ammunition, antimonial lead, bearing metals and bearings, cable coverings, castings, sheet and pipe, and solder.

4/ Includes ammunition primers, pigments, ceramics and glass, and plastics.

5/ Includes adhesives, pigments, rubber, and textiles.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ANTIMONY, BY CLASS AND COUNTRY 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class and country	2000	2001					
		January- June	September	Third quarter	October	November	January- November
Ore and concentrate:							
Australia	1,150	314	--	--	--	--	314
China	1,000	1,240	--	254	20	20	1,530
Mexico	903	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	636	226	25	146	--	48	419
Total	3,690	1,780	25	401	20	68	2,270
Metal:							
China	12,500	3,880 2/	1,260	2,580	977	690	8,130
Hong Kong	206	1,010	--	40	200	125	1,380
Mexico	801	215	362	362	84	--	661
Peru	210	103	--	--	20	--	123
Singapore	300	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	228	147	22	425	25	40	637
Total	14,200	5,360	1,640	3,410	1,310	855	10,900
Oxide:							
Belgium	3,070	1,560	221	722	302	184	2,770
Bolivia 3/	957	--	--	--	--	33	33
China	10,900	6,670	326	771	510	875	8,820
France	54	7	--	4	--	--	11
Guatemala 3/	64	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hong Kong	376	350	161	194	111	--	656
Mexico	4,590	3,410	601	1,640	581	438	6,070
South Africa	3,180	1,540	231	580	564	425	3,110
United Kingdom	146	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	327	79	2	20	35	11	146
Total	23,700	13,600	1,540	3,930	2,100	1,970	21,600
Grand total	41,600	20,700	3,210	7,740	3,430	2,890	34,800
Other antimony compounds (gross weight)	45	51	--	11	14	7	83

-- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

3/ Antimony oxide from these countries believed to be "crude" and would probably be shipped to refineries for upgrading.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.